

NOT FOR CITATION
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

| | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| CHARLES VANCE JOHNSON, |) | No. C 10-03706 JF (PR) |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE |
| |) | |
| vs. |) | |
| |) | |
| RANDY GROUNDS, Warden, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

Petitioner, a state prisoner at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, California, proceeding pro se, seeks a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, challenging the decision of the Board of Parole Hearings (“Board”) finding him unsuitable for parole. Petitioner has paid the filing fee. The Court orders Respondent to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

STATEMENT

According to the petition, Petitioner was sentenced in 1985 to a term of twenty-years-to-life in state prison after a jury found him guilty of second degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon in Kern County Superior Court. Petitioner challenges the Board’s decision denying him parole after a fifth parole suitability hearing on December

8, 2008. Petitioner filed habeas petitions in the state superior court, state appellate court, and the state supreme court, all of which were denied as of July 2010. Petitioner filed the instant federal petition on August 20, 2010.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a state court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); Rose v. Hodges, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975).

A district court shall “award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243.

B. Petitioner’s Claims

As grounds for federal habeas relief, Petitioner claims that “there is no evidence to support the [Board’s] ultimate conclusion that [P]etitioner poses a current threat to public safety.” (Pet. at 7.) Petitioner alleges that the Board’s decision violates due process. Liberally construed, Petitioner’s claims are cognizable under § 2254. The Court orders Respondent to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

CONCLUSION

1. The Clerk shall serve by mail a copy of this order and the petition and all attachments thereto upon the Respondent and the Respondent’s attorney, the Attorney General of the State of California. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on the Petitioner.

2. Respondent shall file with the Court and serve on Petitioner, **within sixty (60) days** of the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus

1 should not be granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on Petitioner a
2 copy of all portions of the state parole record that have been transcribed previously and
3 that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

4 If Petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse
5 with the Court and serving it on Respondent **within thirty (30) days** of his receipt of the
6 answer.

7 3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of
8 an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules
9 Governing Section 2254 Cases. If Respondent files such a motion, Petitioner shall file
10 with the Court and serve on Respondent an opposition or statement of non-opposition
11 **within thirty (30) days** of receipt of the motion, and Respondent shall file with the court
12 and serve on Petitioner a reply **within fifteen (15) days** of receipt of any opposition.

13 4. It is Petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner is reminded
14 that all communications with the Court must be served on respondent by mailing a true
15 copy of the document to Respondent's counsel. Petitioner must keep the Court and all
16 parties informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper captioned "Notice of
17 Change of Address." He must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion.
18 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant
19 to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 DATED: 1/18/11


JEREMY FOGEL
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHARLES VANCE JOHNSON,
Petitioner,

Case Number: CV10-03706 JF

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

v.

RANDY GROUNDS, Warden,
Respondent.

_____/

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on 1/31/11, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Charles Vance Johnson D-05007
Correctional Training Facility
P.O. Box 689
B-328
Soledad, CA 93960-0689

Dated: 1/31/11_____

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk